Amendments to the Specification

Please delete the word "Description" at page 1, line 1.

Please insert the following prior to the paragraph that begins at page 1, line 6:

Field of the Invention

Please insert the following prior to the paragraph that begins at page 1, line 11:

EP 0 221 238 A2 describes a thermometer-to-binary coder in which the thermometer code to be converted is divided into J subgroups each of K bits and each subgroup by itself is converted into a binary code. In this case, the individual thermometer-to-binary coder for each subgroup is constructed for example from a first number of AND gates and subsequent second number of OR gates. The binary output codes of the individual thermometer-to-binary coders for each subgroup are summed in an addition stage and the final binary output cod having a width of 7 bits is thus generated.

Please insert the following prior to the paragraph that begins at page 1, line 11:

Background

Please insert the following prior to the paragraph that begins at page 4, line 1:

Summary

Please insert the following prior to the paragraph that begins at page 12, line 25:

<u>Brief Description of the Drawings</u>

Please insert the following prior to the paragraph that begins at page 13, line 24:

<u>Detailed Description</u>